

Helping You Gain Access to
Higher Education

Scholarships
and
Grants

*Administered by the
SC Commission on Higher
Education*



Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

LIFE Scholarship

SC HOPE Scholarship

SC Need-based Grant

Lottery Tuition Assistance



About the SC Commission on Higher Education

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The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education will promote quality and efficiency in the State system of higher education with the goal of fostering economic growth and human development in South Carolina.

The Student Services Division of the Commission is responsible for coordinating activities including:

- ◆ Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
- ◆ LIFE Scholarship
- ◆ SC HOPE Scholarship
- ◆ SC Need-based Grant
- ◆ Lottery Tuition Assistance Program
- ◆ National Guard Student Loan Repayment Program
- ◆ Veteran Education Benefits
- ◆ Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)
- ◆ Higher Education Awareness Program (HEAP)

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General Eligibility Criteria for All
Scholarship and Grant Programs

- ◆ *Must be a South Carolina resident;*
- ◆ *Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident;*
- ◆ *Must be enrolled as degree-seeking student at an eligible South Carolina public or private institution;*
- ◆ *Must not owe a refund or repayment on a State Grant, Pell Grant, or a Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant and not be in default on a loan under the Federal Perkins Loan or Federal Stafford Loan Program; and*
- ◆ *Must have never been convicted of any felonies and have not been convicted of any alcohol or other drug-related misdemeanor convictions within the past academic year (excluding Lottery Tuition Assistance).*



Palmetto Fellow Scholarship

The South Carolina General Assembly established the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program in 1988 to retain academically talented high school graduates in the State through awards based on merit. Eligible full time students may receive up to the following award amount:

- ◆ Up to \$6,700 each academic year towards the cost of attendance at an eligible four- year senior institution in South Carolina for a maximum of eight terms

Initial Eligibility Requirements:

Applications for early awards must be submitted to the Commission on Higher Education for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship by the date established in *December* each academic year. Students must meet the following three academic criteria in order to be eligible to apply for the early awards:

- ◆ Score at least 1200 on the SAT or 27 on the ACT. Test scores must be submitted to the Commission on Higher Education by no later the established deadline in December;

- ◆ Earn a cumulative 3.50 GPR on the UGS at the end of the junior year; and

- ◆ Rank in the top six percent of the class at the end of either the sophomore or the junior year.

Applications for final awards must be submitted to the Commission on Higher Education for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship by the date established in *June* each academic year. Students must meet the following three academic criteria in order to be eligible to apply for the final awards:

- ◆ Score at least 1200 on the SAT or 27 on the ACT. Test scores will be accepted through June of the senior year;

- ◆ Earn a cumulative 3.50 GPR on the UGS at the end of the senior year; and

- ◆ Rank in the top six percent of the class at the end of the senior year.

Students must not be a recipient of the LIFE Scholarship, SC HOPE Scholarship and the Lottery Tuition Assistance Program.

For application information, please contact the high school guidance counselor if you meet the above criteria.



LIFE Scholarship Program

The South Carolina General Assembly established the Legislative Incentives for Future Excellence (LIFE) Program in 1998 to increase access to higher education, improve employability of South Carolina’s students, provide incentives for students to be better prepared for college, and to encourage students to graduate from college on time. Eligible full time students may receive up to the following award amounts:

- ◆ Up to \$5,000 (including a \$300 book allowance) each academic year towards the cost-of-attendance at an eligible four-year institution in South Carolina. Limited to ten(10) terms for the first approved five year baccalaureate degree program or (8) terms for the first four-year degree program

- ◆ Up to the cost-of-tuition plus a \$300 book allowance each academic year at an eligible two-year public or technical institution in South Carolina. At the two-year independent institution in South Carolina, students may receive up to the maximum average of the cost-of-tuition at the two-year USC regional campuses. Limited to two (2) terms for the first one-year program or four (4) terms for the first associate's degree program or a two-year program that is acceptable for full credit toward a baccalaureate degree

Initial Eligibility at Four-Year Institutions:

Students must meet two of the following three criteria:

1. Cumulative 3.0 GPR based on the Uniform Grading Scale upon high school graduation
2. Rank in the top 30 percent of graduating class
3. Score an 1100 on the SAT or 24 on the ACT through June of the senior year

Initial Eligibility at Two-Year Institutions:

- ◆ Graduate from high school with a cumulative 3.0 GPR based on the Uniform Grading Scale

All students must also:

- ◆ Be a SC resident at the time of high school graduation and college enrollment;
- ◆ Not be a recipient of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, SC HOPE Scholarship and Lottery Tuition Assistance; and
- ◆ Meet all general eligibility criteria.

There is no application required for the LIFE Scholarship. The participating institution will determine eligibility and will notify the student if eligible for the scholarship.



SC HOPE Scholarship Program

The SC HOPE Scholarship Program was established under the SC Education Lottery Act in 2001. It is a one-year merit-based scholarship created for eligible first-time entering freshmen attending an eligible four-year institution in South Carolina. Eligible full-time students may receive up to the following award amount:

- ◆ Up to \$2,650 (including a \$150 book allowance) towards the cost of attendance, for a maximum of two terms

Initial Eligibility Requirements:

- ◆ Earn a cumulative 3.0 GPR on Uniform Grading Scale upon high school graduation;

- ◆ Be a SC resident at the time of high school graduation and college enrollment;

- ◆ Not be a recipient of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, LIFE Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance; and

- ◆ Meet all general eligibility criteria.

There is no application required for the SC HOPE Scholarship. The participating institution will determine eligibility and will notify the student if eligible for the scholarship.



SC Need-based Grant Program

The South Carolina General Assembly established the South Carolina Need-based Grant Program in 1996 to provide additional financial assistance to South Carolina’s neediest students. Eligible students may receive up to the following award amounts:

- ◆ If enrolled full-time, students may receive up to \$2,500 per year and if enrolled part-time, students may receive up to \$1,250 per year for a maximum of eight full-time equivalent terms.

Initial Eligibility Requirements:

- ◆ Must complete and file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form each year;

- ◆ Must be enrolled and attending or have completed at the time of the grant disbursement a minimum of six credit hours if part-time or twelve credit hours if full-time for the term; and

- ◆ Must meet all general eligibility criteria.



Lottery Tuition Assistance Program

The Lottery Tuition Assistance Program was established under the SC Education Lottery Act in 2001. Award amounts are dependant upon the number of students eligible and the amount of funding available each academic year.

Initial Eligibility Requirements:

- ◆ Must complete and file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form each academic year;

- ◆ Must be enrolled for a minimum of six credit hours and be degree-seeking each term;

- ◆ Must not be a recipient of a LIFE, Palmetto Fellows or SC HOPE Scholarship during the academic year (fall, spring or summer terms);

- ◆ Must not receive Lottery Tuition Assistance for more than one certificate, diploma, or degree earned within any five-year period unless the additional certificate, diploma, or degree constitutes progress in the same field of study; and

- ◆ Must meet all general eligibility criteria.



Contact Information

For detailed information about the scholarship and grant programs administered by the SC Commission on Higher Education:

- ◆ Visit our website at www.che.sc.gov
- ◆ Call us at 803-737-2260 or toll free at 877-349-7183